

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated September 30, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 7, 12-14, 21 and 22 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 23 and 26 have been amended, and claims 8, 12-14, 21, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15-20 and 23-30 are allowed and claims 1-7, 9-11, 15-20, and 23-30 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 06265919 to Kanesaka et al. (hereinafter "Kanesaka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,950,072 to Honda (hereinafter "Honda"). Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,850,228 to Iizumi (hereinafter "Iizumi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,867 to Shimada et al. (hereinafter "Shimada") and further in view of Honda. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0005249 to Takeishi (hereinafter "Takeishi") in view of Shimada and further in view of Honda.

Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, therefore the rejection of claim 7 is now overcome.

Claims 12-14 have been cancelled so their rejection is now moot.

Claims 21 and 22 are now cancelled so their rejection is now moot.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the



filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 12, 2005

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Nuss", written over a horizontal line.

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